

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**  
**Lutheran Council in Asia**  
**(LUCAS)**

***Preamble***

The LWF member churches in Asia welcomed the decision of Curitiba Assembly in 1990 concerning the acceptance of the LWF as a Communion of Churches through the Asian Church Leaders' Conference/Pre-Assembly Consultation in Singapore in 1997. The Conference established the Regional Expression of Communion called the Asia Regional Coordinating Committee (ARCC), consisting of 11 members from the region representing youth, women, church leaders and theological educators. The committee served as a forum to bring about more cohesion and co-ordination in the planning of the various activities in the region.

With the regional office stationed in the region as from 2000, the function of ARCC is changed into the Advisory Committee for Coordination of Regional Expression in Asia (ACCREA) to accompany Regional Coordinator. In the ACTEAS/ACCREA joint meeting in Singapore in 2006, the Advisory Committee for Theological Education in Asia (ACTEAS) - a forum for theological education and leadership development established in 1997, was dissolved to combine with ACCREA into one committee. The two Committees proposed that the new ACCREA operate as one for the coordination of regional expression and theological education for the region. The merger of the two committees is for the sake of both greater efficiency and economical reasons.

In its meeting in Lund, March 2007 the Asia Church Leadership Conference (ACLC) decided to set up a Lutheran Council in Asia (LUCAS) to replace the ACCREA. LUCAS is an instrument of the Lutheran Communion in Asia to promote the true meaning and the practical implications of being a Lutheran Communion and to carry specific tasks on behalf of the region.

***Purpose***

1. To promote communion formation by deepening and communicating the implications of being a communion of churches.
2. To enhance mutual exchange, accompaniment and sharing of resources among churches.
3. To promote education and research within member churches and theological institutions in the areas of ecumenical theology and inter-faith relations.
4. To discuss and coordinate regional efforts to meet the expressed needs of member churches especially in matters of mission, diakonia and development.

***Functions***

1. To follow-up Church Leadership Conference' recommendations and provide specific plans and strategies for implementation by member churches
2. To serve as a forum to bring about more cohesion and coordination in the planning of the various programs in the region in cooperation with the Asia Secretary and Regional Coordinator.

3. To prepare plans for regional programs, i.e. conference, consultations, seminars, workshops in cooperation with the Asia Secretary and Regional Coordinator.
4. To assist the Area Secretary for Asia in identifying issues to be brought to the attention of member churches and the LWF.
5. To provide direction and accompaniment to the work of the Regional Coordinator in Asia
6. To review the responsibility and work of Regional Coordinator and authorize renewal of his/her contract every two years.
7. To provide for an interview process and appoint a Regional Coordinator subject to the approval of the LWF General Secretary.

### **Structure**

1. The members of Lutheran Council in Asia (LUCAS) is appointed by the Asian Church Leadership Conference.
2. The Council consists of 15 members representing the three sub regions, which consists of LWF Council members in Asia, church leaders, theological educators, lay men/women and youth, who will closely accompany the Regional Coordinator and give advice on the programmatic activities in the region.
3. The term of office for Council members shall be six (6) years and are eligible for re-election. However to provide smooth continuity of the life and activities of the Council, up to four (4) members shall be re-elected from the previous members for another term, while the remaining members shall be replaced.  
A member should not serve more than two (2) terms.
4. The Council shall meet once a year and one of the meetings to be held prior to the Church Leadership Conference. The annual meeting will normally be two days in length.
5. A chairperson of the Council will be the LWF Vice President from Asia and a recording secretary shall be elected from among the Council members for a term of six (6) years.
6. The Asia Secretary in Geneva and the Regional Coordinator shall serve as ex-officio members of the Council.

### **Budget:**

The budget for the program of the Lutheran Council in Asia (LUCAS) is the budget used for the previous ACCREA as part of the LWF/DMD/Asia Desk Statement of Needs (SoN).

Approved by the ACLC in Lund  
March 23, 2007